

## **PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting on May 24, 2017

Members attending: Debby Brehm, Doug Emery, Liz Standish, John Miles, Deb Schorr, Tyler Mainquist, Tom Casady

Members absent: Dick Campbell, Tracy Sanford, Rick Carter, Mike Rogers

Others present: Molly Burton, Ray Ryan & Julie Righter Dove, City of Lincoln; Nancy Hicks, Lincoln Journal Star

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Minutes of the November 9, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Mainquist, second by Standish to accept the minutes. Approved by voice vote.

Tom Casady provided an update and itemized spreadsheet reflecting revenue and expenses – real and projected – beginning in October 2015 through the end of the sales tax collection period. Of note, the amount committed for architectural services is less than expected, but the construction bids for Station 11 were higher than projected. Casady indicated he doesn't expect to see a large disparity between projected and actual bids for the other sites. He's still optimistic that the final cost of \$34.5 million will be the actual cost for the entire project.

The collection of sales tax for the Public Safety Projects must expire on October 1, 2018. If current sales tax collections stay on course, the City could consider ending collection after 33 months instead of the planned 36 months. There are specific time frames and dates to keep in mind in order to satisfy the State and receive approval from the City Council. The disadvantage of ending sales tax collection early is taking the chance of a shortfall in revenue, which would require the City to find the balance of financing for the project from other sources. The City sales tax website is updated around the 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month.

Ray Ryan and Julie Righter Dove gave updates on the new radio system. Both indicated the planning stages have been completed and physical work is now being done. Equipment racks have been installed at the Arbor Road site and will begin at the Jensen Park site soon. Modifications need to be made to the existing steel work and footings on radio towers in order to meet more recently-adopted requirements. It's unknown at this time how much those modifications may cost, but Ray expects to have an estimate by May 26, 2017. Testing of fiber optics has been successful and the radio shop staff is now working with Motorola to program the 932 mobile and 1935 portable radios that will be used. October 19, 2017 would be the earliest the new system could be operational, however, that's in the midst of the Husker football season and UNL PD would like to refrain from making the switch during the season. Casady indicated early 2018 is the goal to have the new radio system functional.

Julie Righter Dove indicated Motorola will conduct "train the trainer" sessions for dispatch personnel with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department being designated as the test agency. The sound of digital transmissions will sound somewhat different compared to the current analog system. The digital system will eliminate most background noise, but voices will sound slightly distorted. Director Casady suggested accessing Las Vegas Metro PD through [www.broadcastify.com](http://www.broadcastify.com) to learn how digital radio broadcast may sound.

Julie also reported that renovation of the 911 Center began April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Demolition was completed ahead of schedule and drywall is now going up. She expects that everything should be complete and the facility turned back over from the contractor to the City by September 3, 2017 with a goal to have the emergency communications center completely furnished and ready to go "live" by the first of next year. The total cost for the renovation should come out approximately \$250,000.00 less than projected.

Director Casady reported that properties located at 6601 Pine Lake Road and 4421 N. 24<sup>th</sup> have been purchased. The City is tasked with maintaining both properties until such time as clearing large vegetation can occur. Additionally, the City is currently negotiating on the property located at 4405 S. 84<sup>th</sup> for the relocation of Station 12. Casady and other City staff have met with the homeowners association in that area several times to reassure them that activity and noise from sirens would not change much from what they already experience from Station 12, nor would drainage be an issue, yet many homeowners in that area have indicated they'd rather not see a fire station go in at that area, citing late-night responses may disturb them, although data indicates less than one emergency response per day in that area between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am. This property is the last available option in the 84<sup>th</sup> & Pioneers area. There are still a couple options for property acquisition in the 84<sup>th</sup> & Holdrege area.

Davis Design/Stewart Cooper Newell have been selected for the architecture design for the stand-alone fire stations, which will have the same square footage as Station 11. Casady would like to begin turning dirt later this year at the 66<sup>th</sup> & Pine Lake location, including the removal of all buildings, stumps pulled, etc., in conjunction with road construction expected in the same area. He indicates plans are to allow access to the build site despite the road construction. The entrance and exit sites, post-build, have yet to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.